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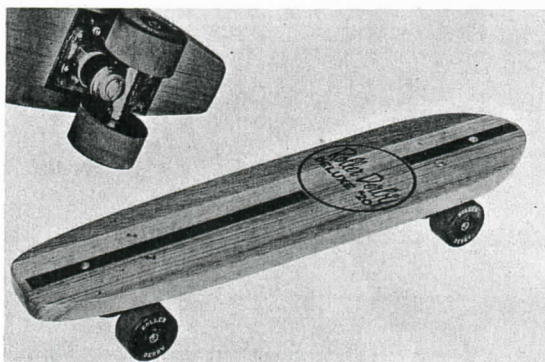
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TEAM RUNDOWNS AT PLAYOFF TIME

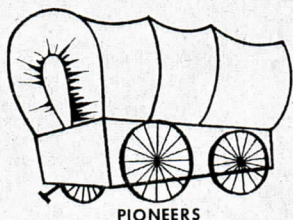
At deadline time, here's the way the six IRDL clubs shape up in terms of playoff readiness:



CHIEFS — Because of their health, must figure as the team to beat. Have the league's leading jammers in Gammon and McGuire, plus capable back-up offense from Moreland and Nelson. O'Connell, Groll, Dunn and O'Brien are menacingly formidable on defense. Only serious weakness: lack of jamming depth. In other words, if Mike and Judi can be contained, it's likely that Moreland and Nelson couldn't do it all by themselves.



BOMBERS — Come into the pressure point of the year in their best shape all season. The addition of Jackie Garelo and Ed Dombek has put the Bomber offense in gear. Their girls (MVP Tucker, All Star Read, sturdy Kadyra, high-scoring Baker) are as good as anyone's. The Hein and Krebs injuries have certainly impaired the men's field, yet Russell and Wrice have picked up the club on the jam. The puzzlement is if the men's field has neared its peak this soon.



PIONEERS — Could be the mystery team of the playoffs. Capable of putting it all together and running away with the title — if. Weston's girls can hold their own with any gals unit, particularly now that Carol (Peanuts) Meyer is jamming with her old brilliance. Blackard emerged late as a significant jammer for Joanie. Yet, in the men's field, there's concern about defensive prowess and the need to keep fragile Tony Roman healthy.



RED DEVILS — The biggest problem could be a Little's one. The amazing Allen Little's sustained a leg injury in early March but has since returned to skating. If he's ready to go at full tilt, the Devils have the capacity to take it all — for their gal scorers, Saunders and Quilice, are first-rate, and their defense, in the remarkable hands of Woodberry and Clay, is rock-hard. Dancel and Hesson are good back-ups for Little's, but Allen is the key to the trophy chest.



JOLTERS — A number of question marks in the late going: Will Calvello's pained knees hold up; will Butler recover from a series of late Winter ailments; can Cochu and Smith keep going at such a devastatingly fast pace. On the plus side, there's the immense improvement defensively of old pro Jerry Cattell and the deep jamming strength on the men's unit (Smith, Waters, Mallory). For the gals, Laszlo's been doing it all lately.



EAGLES — A surprise to everyone, including probably even themselves. Because they were a late expansion entry, nobody expected much. But under the enthusiastic leadership of Scopas and Vallew, the Eagles showed they couldn't be taken for granted. Dornenberg was a sensational jammer in February and March. Turbin has been getting big points for the men. But Vallew's defensive aide, Earp, has been hurt. And Scopas isn't completely healthy. A longshot, these Eagles.

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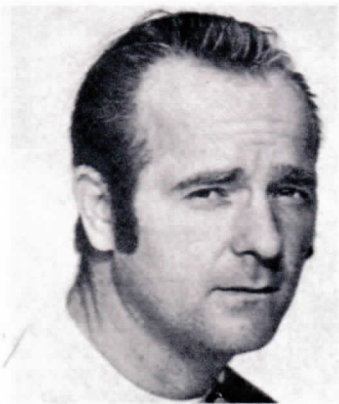
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BILL GROLL

1971

Gerry below with son Mike Gammon, one of the sport's star skaters today.



1964



Fans and Derby officials set aside a special night in 1958 to honor Gerry, who is shown above receiving the 1950 Most Valuable Player award from Toughie Bra-suhn,



CURRENT BOMBER COACH EDDIE KREBS

1971



Most Roller Derby stars ended up the 1966 Road tour with bad cases of writer's cramp from autographs.

Eddie Krebs signs autographs



WOMAN'S CAPTAIN JOAN WESTON

1971



MIKE GAMMON

Famous parents . . . 25 but old
hand . . . Born in Milwaukee. . .
Small . . . fast . . . tough.

1964



RONNIE ROBINSON

New York is home . . . Sugar Ray's boy . . . 145 pounds . . . soon to be 27. . . durable and dependable.



Turn-about is fair play and Joanie Weston gets her licks in by sending Cathie Read over the padded rail and off the track as the action picks up.

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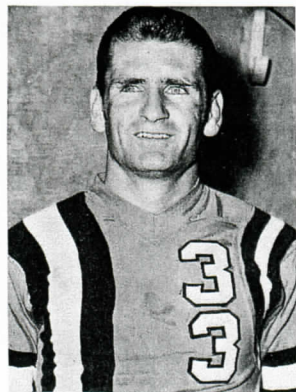
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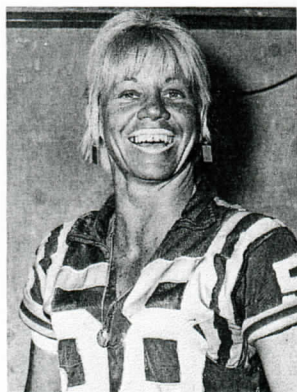
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IRDL SKATE CHAMPIONS



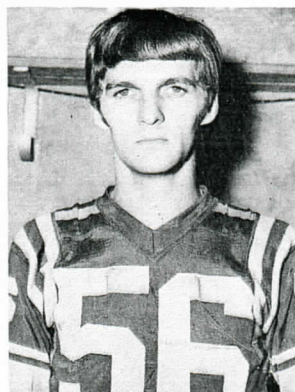
LARRY SMITH

Aggressive young Bomber from Hayward, Calif. Known as one of the toughest men in the league. Also widely sought by other clubs for his ability to guide the development of young, upcoming skaters.



ANN CALVELLO

125-pound package of dynamite. Ann is 37 and has the reputation of being one of the only women skaters able to battle the Bomber's Joanie Weston to a draw.



EDDIE KREBS

Even though he's only 25, Eddie has long ago proven his talents to the rest of the league. Slender (160) but not at all fragile, as many a sidelined skater will testify.



JOAN WESTON

By far, the best women skater to turn a lap on the track since the great Gerry Murray. Joanie is a coach's delight: speed plus tough blocking ability and a terrific sense of knowing what to do at the right time.

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Roller Derby Gains In Popularity

By JOHNNY JANES

Some sport fans laugh at Roller Derby action and the skaters themselves often join in the laughter. In fact, the stars of the sport that now has a San Antonio-owned franchise laugh all the way to the bank.

"The outstanding stars have contracts calling for as much as \$50,000 a year in salaries," player-coach Eddie Krebs of the team purchased last week by the Alamo City's Irving Wayne said during a whirlwind visit to his new home base Monday. "A lot of others make as much as \$20,000 a year."

Krebs, whose squad includes remnants of the famed Bay Bombers from the San Francisco area—the team that set the pace as the Roller Derby became a major sports attraction—still hasn't reached the \$50,000 level, but admits that he is gaining, but at a price.

ONLY 27

Krebs, still only 27 years of age after 12 years of round-and-round activity on banked tracks, has had more broken bones and fractures than he can count and has a pair of well-scarred hands that didn't get that way from collisions or falls.

"Every knuckle has been smashed at least once," the slim, bearded skater explained, "and that came from punching, not falling."

"Those came from the teeth of a guy named Ronnie Nelson," he added as he pointed to scars on his left hand.

So the Roller Derby hasn't changed since this sport made



EDDIE KREBS
S. A. Player-coach

its San Antonio debut prior to World War II at the Municipal Auditorium except for a couple of minor rules alterations that includes the wearing of helmets.

STRUCTURE CHANGED

The structure of the game has been changed, however, because of its increasing popularity. Wayne's team—to be known as the Bombers until a more suitable name is selected—is one of six entries in the International Roller Derby League with Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, Atlanta and the Northwest Red Devils from the Seattle area.

The Bombers will make their home debut Saturday night at the Convention Center Arena against the Red Devils with a lineup that includes Krebs, Cal

Stevens, Jimmy Cook, Ray Russell and James Paul on the men's squad and Delores Tucker (the league's most valuable player last year), Kathy Reed, Pauline Kadya, Barbara Baker and Cornelia Green on the girls' squad. Each group carries a couple of substitutes.

The Bombers (?) will represent all of Texas, playing their home games at San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth and Amarillo.

"We often play as many as five games a week and we know from experience that is too many games to play in one city," Krebs said.

Because of Roller Derby expansion, the league now maintains training schools at Alameda, Calif., and Chicago and another probably will be added in the Southwest area, possibly at San Antonio.

"There is no problem in finding new players," the player-coach said. "The schools get all the skaters they can handle—and they pay for their training, just hoping they will be selected for a team."

Oddly, some of the recruits who go into training know nothing of skating. "The money and the chance to travel appeal to them," Krebs explained.

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